

Page 23, line 13. Applicant traverses the objection concerning use of the term "reservoir" as such is shown in Fig. 6, reference numeral 25, and described at Page 23, lines 14-23.

Regarding the § 112 Rejection

Claims 1-30 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as "containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention." It is contended in the Office Action that the specification fails to disclose the claimed invention relating to the "grounding connection" and "step of grounding the human". Claim 1 has been amended to claim a "means inside the enclosure for electrically grounding" in accordance with the specification as originally filed (Page 14, lines 11-13; Page 17, lines 18-20; Page 20, lines 4-5; and Figures 1-2, reference numeral 4). Claim 31 has been amended to include subject matter from claim 34 emphasizing a step for grounding a floor upon which the human stands in accordance with the specification as originally filed (Page 17, lines 16-19).

Regarding the § 102 Rejection

Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Barnett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,494,674).



Claim 31 has been amended to include the floor grounding limitation of claim 34. Barnett et al. fails to teach or suggest the claimed process including grounding a floor upon which a human stands and spraying that human with an electrostatically charged coating solution.

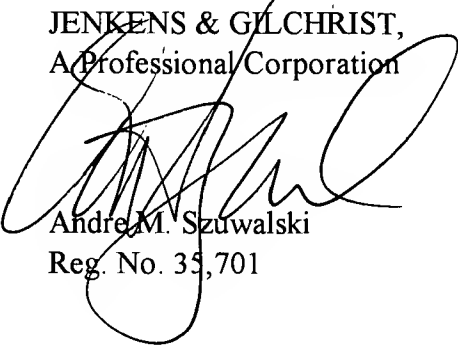
Claims 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,494,674).

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 32 and 33, which are dependent upon claim 31, are allowable because amended claim 31 is now in condition for allowance. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the § 103 rejection of claims 32 and 33 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKENS & GILCHRIST,
A Professional Corporation



Andre M. Szuwalski
Reg. No. 35,701

1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2799
(214) 855-4795
(214) 855-4300 (fax)



Docket No. 32272-00024USPT

RECEIVED
OCT 18 2001
1C 100 MAIL ROOM

EXHIBIT A
MARKED-UP SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT(S) FOR
RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JULY 23, 2001

Page 15, Paragraph 2 (i.e., text page 15, lines 8-9)

FIGURE 1 is a [cross sectional] schematic view of one embodiment of the booth.

Page 15, Paragraph 3 (i.e., text page 15, lines 10-11)

FIGURE 2 is a [cross sectional] schematic view of the operation of the booth of FIGURE 1.

Page 15, Paragraph 6 (i.e., text page 15, lines 15-17)

FIGURE 5 is a [cross sectional] schematic view of a system used to provide vertical motion to the electrostatic misting nozzles.

Page 24, Paragraph 1 (i.e., text on page 24, line 4 to page 25, line 9)

In another embodiment of the present invention, the misting solution is disbursed through the use of a misting chamber rather than moving nozzles. For example, FIGURE 7 illustrates a booth 1 using a misting chamber 32. The booth 1 consists of walls 2, a ceiling 3 and door [4] 5, all of which can be made of dielectric material. The booth 1 also includes a floor 4, possibly, made of a conductive material such as metal. Attached to the upper section of one of the walls 2 or to the ceiling 3, high enough to be above the head of any potential user of the booth, is a misting chamber 32 which consists of a cylinder made of a

a

dielectric material open on the end attached to the wall 2 or ceiling 3 enclosed on the end away from the wall 2 or ceiling 3. Attached to the closed end of the misting chamber 32 is at least one electrostatic nozzle 7 which is part of the electrostatic misting apparatus 12 used to create the electrostatic mist. Attached to the base of wall 2 is an exhaust housing 9 which is opened on the end attached to the wall 2 and connect to an exhaust conduit on the end away from the wall 2. The exhaust housing 9 is made of a dielectric material and contains an exhaust filter 8 on the open end attached to wall 2 and exhaust bin 9A. When the booth 1 is in operation, user 11 would be inside the booth 1 standing barefoot on the floor, which can be constructed of a conductive material that is grounded -- thereby grounding the user 11.

EXHIBIT B
MARKED-UP CLAIM AMENDMENT(S) FOR
RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JULY 23, 2001

1 1. (Amended) An apparatus for electrostatically coating a human with a coating
2 composition, the apparatus comprising:
3 an enclosure;
4 a mount positioned on the enclosure;
5 an electrostatic nozzle connected to the mount, the electrostatic nozzle for passing the
6 coating composition; and
7 means [a grounding connection positioned] inside the enclosure [, the grounding connection
8 capable of] for electrically grounding the human;
9 wherein the coating composition passed through the electrostatic nozzle is depositable upon
10 the human.

1 7. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the enclosure comprises:
2 [an entry point] a door for permitting the human to enter the enclosure .[; and
3 a door for covering the entry point.]

a

1 29. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
2 [an air intake] a conduit connected to the electrostatic nozzle, the [air intake] conduit for
3 receiving compressed air for use by the electrostatic nozzle.

1 31. (Amended) A method for applying a coating composition to a human, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 providing a coating solution;

4 providing an electrostatic nozzle for spraying the coating solution;

5 atomizing the coating solution;

6 electrically charging the coating solution;

7 grounding a floor upon which a human stands;

8 directing the electrically charged and atomized coating solution towards the human;

9 and

10 depositing at least a portion of the electrically charged and atomized coating solution
11 on the human.

1 34.(Amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising [the steps of]:

2 [grounding the human;]

3 the step of electrically attracting the coating solution towards the [grounded] human.

EXHIBIT C
CLEAN SET OF PENDING CLAIMS

All of the claims are reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner whether or not an amendment has been made.

1. (Amended) An apparatus for electrostatically coating a human with a coating composition, the apparatus comprising:

- an enclosure;
- a mount positioned on the enclosure;
- an electrostatic nozzle connected to the mount, the electrostatic nozzle for passing the coating composition; and
- means inside the enclosure for electrically grounding the human;

wherein the coating composition passed through the electrostatic nozzle is depositable upon the human.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the enclosure comprises:

- a first wall wherein the mount is positioned on the first wall; and
- a second wall positioned substantially opposite the first wall, the second wall including a portion curved about an axis.

BI¹

aw

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the portion of the second wall curved about an axis forms a parabolic curve.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the portion of the second wall curved about an axis forms an elliptical curve.

AS 5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the portion of the second wall curved about an axis forms a circular curve.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the enclosure has a circular cross section corresponding to a vertical plane intersecting the enclosure.

7. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the enclosure comprises:
a door for permitting the human to enter the enclosure .

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the grounding connection comprises is a grounding plate positionable for contact with the human.

32²

Q

9. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a fluid path connected to the electrostatic nozzle, the fluid path for carrying the coating composition to the electrostatic nozzle.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
a reservoir connected to the fluid path, the reservoir for storing the coating composition.

AS

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the enclosure comprises a dielectric material.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
means to electrically charge the enclosure.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the electrostatic nozzle is configurable to pass an atomized and electrically charged coating composition.

14. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an exhaust means placed proximate to the enclosure, the exhaust means for at least removing a portion of the coating composition passed by the electrostatic nozzle.

33³

a

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the exhaust means comprises an exhaust fan.
16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the exhaust means is substantially formed of a dielectric material.
17. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mount comprises a mount moving means secured to the mount, wherein the mount is movable by the mount moving means such that the mount and the electrostatic nozzle are movable.
18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the mount moving means comprises a worm drive.
19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the mount moving means is configured to move the mount in a vertical direction.
20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the mount moving means is configured to pivot the mount in a vertical plane.
21. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the mount moving means is configured to pivot the mount in a horizontal plane.

22. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the electrostatic nozzle is a first electrostatic nozzle and the mount is a first mount, the apparatus further comprising:

a second mount positioned on the enclosure; and

a second electrostatic nozzle connected to the second mount, the second electrostatic nozzle for passing the coating composition.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the second mount is located separate from the first mount.

AS

24. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a misting chamber positioned adjacent to the enclosure, the misting chamber for substantially directing the coating composition into the enclosure.

25. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a compressed air supply connected to the electrostatic nozzle, the compressed air supply for providing compressed air to the electrostatic nozzle.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the compressed air supply comprises an air compressor.

27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the compressed air supply comprises an air tank.

28. The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising:

an air flow regulator for regulating the pressure of the compressed air provided to the electrostatic nozzle.

29. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

AS a conduit connected to the electrostatic nozzle, the conduit for receiving compressed air for use by the electrostatic nozzle.

30. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a reservoir for storing the coating composition;

a coating composition line connected to the reservoir and the electrostatic nozzle, the coating composition line for carrying the coating composition from the reservoir to the electrostatic nozzle;
and

a compressed air intake connected to the reservoir, the compressed air intake for receiving compressed air.

31. (Amended) A method for applying a coating composition to a human, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a coating solution;

providing an electrostatic nozzle for spraying the coating solution;

atomizing the coating solution;

electrically charging the coating solution;

grounding a floor upon which a human stands;

AS directing the electrically charged and atomized coating solution towards the human;

and

depositing at least a portion of the electrically charged and atomized coating solution on the human.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the step of atomizing occurs before the step of electrically charging.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein the step of electrically charging occurs before the step of atomizing.

34. (Amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

31 7

a

the step of electrically attracting the coating solution towards the human.

35. The method of claim 31, further comprising the steps of:

providing an enclosure for enclosing the human;

electrically repelling the coating solution from at least a portion of the enclosure.

36. The method of claim 35, further comprising the steps of:

extracting at least a portion of the coating solution from the enclosure, the extracted at least
a portion of the coating solution not being deposited on the human.

37. The method of claim 33, further comprising the steps of:

moving the electrostatic nozzle.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the step of moving the electrostatic nozzle includes the
step of moving the electrostatic nozzle in a vertical direction.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein the step of moving the electrostatic nozzle includes the
step of oscillating the electrostatic nozzle.

38

a

40. The method of claim 39, wherein the step of moving the electrostatic nozzle includes the
step of oscillating the electrostatic nozzle in a vertical plane.

39

a